

input to the OR-gate 462b at the time of putting the portable object under voltage.

The initialization member 463 is intended to enable the initial read-in of the enabling data. It is composed of an AND-gate 466 connected on the one hand to the output S from the store and on the other hand to the output AO from the decoder 433a; the output from the AND-gate 466 is connected to a flip-flop 464-465 the output from which is marked I; the output I from the initialization member 463 is connected to the inverter input to the AND-gate 448 and to the input to the OR-gate 467 of the member 454 for control of authorization of writing and/or reading. If a level 1 (signifying that the bit is virgin) appears over the output S from the store when the latter is addressed over its first address the output from the gate 466 forces to the level 1 the output I from the flip-flop 464-465; the result is on the one hand closure of the AND-gate 448, that is to say, prohibition of operation of the member for storage of the errors in confidential code and for simulation, and on the other hand opening of the gates 455 and 468 for authorization of writing and/or reading, by way of the OR-gate 467; read-in of the enabling data is consequently possible. After read-in of the enabling data it is advisable to disconnect the portable object from voltage and then to put in back under voltage by giving a positive order over the input LIG to the portable object; thus the bit located at the first address (address zero) of the store is destroyed; correlatively the gate 466 is definitely closed; the flip-flop 464-465 therefore from now on is put automatically to zero every time of putting under voltage since it is connected by its input R1 to the zero-reset member 456.

In order to check the validity of the confidential code being tested, the transfer device intended to be associated with the variant embodiment of the portable object in accordance with the invention which has just been described includes a generator of bursts (for example, 5000 pulses) the output of which is connected to the input H to the portable object; it includes in addition a flip-flop system connected over the output LIG from the portable object. If after 5000 pulses the flip-flop has not changed its state—thus expressing refusal to open by the gate 468—that signifies either that the confidential code being tested is incorrect, or that the zone for counting the errors in confidential code is saturated; in both cases the operations of transfer or processing of the data are refused, a signal may be provided on the transfer device to warn the rightful owner of the portable object about it.

I claim:

1. A portable independent electronic object designed for storing and transferring data confidentially, intended for being coupled to a data transfer device; the said portable object comprising:

at least one store module intended for the storage of data in an easily portable form, containing enabling data,

coupling means accessible from outside the portable object, enabling the said portable object to be coupled temporarily with the said transfer device, circuits for control of the store, interconnected between the coupling means and the store; the said store and the control circuits being produced in the form of logical microstructures;

an identification comparator connected to the store and to the coupling means, intended for comparing the enabling data contained in the store with a

confidential code supplied by the rightful owner of the portable object and introduced into the portable object by way of the said transfer device;

the said portable object being characterized in that it includes in addition:

a circuit for storage of the errors in confidential code, connected to the identification comparator, intended to keep track permanently of the errors in confidential code, the said storage circuit comprising at least one store element composed of a permanent store.

2. A portable object as in claim 1, characterized in that:

the storage circuit comprises inhibition circuit means for inhibiting the electronic circuits of the portable object.

3. A portable object as in claim 2, characterized in that it comprises means for control of authorization of the access to the store module; the identification comparator actuating said means for control of authorization of the access to the store module.

4. A portable object as in claim 3, characterized in that:

the means for control of authorization of the access to the store module actuates a writing gate.

5. A portable object as in claim 3, characterized in that:

the means for control of authorization of the access to the store module actuates a reading gate.

6. A portable object as in claim 1, characterized in that:

the store element of the storage circuit is a MNOS store.

7. A portable object as in claim 1, characterized in that:

the store element of the storage circuit is an ovonic store.

8. A portable object as in claim 1, characterized in that:

the store element of the storage circuit is a FAMOS store.

9. A portable object as in claim 1, characterized in that:

the store element of the storage circuit is a destructible element.

10. A portable object as in claim 9, characterized in that:

the destructible store element of the storage circuit is a fuse.

11. A portable object as in claim 9, characterized in that it includes in addition:

a simulation circuit connected in parallel with the storage circuit over the supply.

12. A portable object as in claim 10, characterized in that it includes in addition:

a circuit means for checking the supply voltage to the storage circuit.

13. A portable object as in claim 12, characterized in that:

the circuit means for checking the supply voltage is connected to an inhibiting circuit for inhibiting the electronic circuits of the portable object.

14. A portable object as in claim 12, characterized in that:

the circuit means for checking the supply voltage comprises an analogue comparator.

15. A portable object as in claim 3, characterized in that it includes in addition: